

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01309 061254Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05 CU-04 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 /109 W

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R 061100Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8079

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS EI

SUBJ: IRISH HOTELS BOMBED

1. FOUR HOTELS IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC WERE BOMBED JULY 3 IN AN ACTION THAT APPEARS TO BE RETALIATION FOR KILLINGS OF PROTESTANT BUSINESSMEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE BOMBINGS WERE PRECEDED BY A TELEPHONE WARNING FROM A MAN WITH A NORTHERN IRISH ACCENT WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "CAPTAIN BLACK OF THE ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS." FOUR PERSONS WERE INJURED IN THE BOMBINGS; FURTUNATELY, ONE SERIOUSLY.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FOUR HOTELS THAT WERE BOMBED:

A) DUBLIN'S GRESHAM HOTEL WERE 25 LBS OF GELIGNITE WERE HIDDEN IN A LINEN CLOSET ON SECOND FLOOR. NONE OF THE 200 GUESTS OR 150 STAFF OF THIS LUXURY HOTEL WAS INJURED, ALTHOUGH SOME WERE TREATED FOR SHOCK.

B) ROSSLARE'S GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL. A SUITCASE OF EXPLOSIVES WAS LEFT IN A PARKING BAY UNDER THE HOTEL. SIXTEEN OF THE HOTEL'S 100 BEDROOMS WERE DAMAGED. THREE PERSONS WERE TREATED FOR SHOCK.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01309 061254Z

C) LIMERICK'S ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL. A 10 LB BOMB CAUSED CONSIDERABLE

DAMAGE AND INJURED A TEN YEAR OLD BOY.

D) KILLARNEY'S TORC GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL. GUESTS HAD BEEN EVACUATED WHEN THE BOMB EXPLODED NEAR A TANK OF BUTANEGAS. FORTUNATELY, THE GAS WAS NOT IGNITED.

3. THE BOMBINGS CAUSED SHOCK AND DISMAY THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, AND ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE IRISH NEWSPAPERS WAS THAT OF THE EFFECT OF THE BOMBINGS ON TOURISM AND INVESTMENT. THE TOURIST SEASON IN IRELAND HAD GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START THIS YEAR, AND IRISH TOURIST OFFICIALS WERE HOPING FOR A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS THIS YEAR. TOURIST BOARD OFFICIALS FEAR THAT MANY CANCELLATIONS WILL RESULT FROM THE BOMBINGS. ONE HIGH LEVEL TOURIST OFFICIAL PRIVATELY COMMENTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE ISRAELI RAID IN UGANDA MAY HAVE BEEN OF SOME HELP IN THIS RESPECT, INASMUCH AS IT PUSHED THE NEWS OF THE IRISH BOMBINGS TO THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPERS. NEVERTHELESS, THE BOMBINGS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SOME EFFECT ON TOURISM, ALTHOUGH THE EXTENT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS AT THIS TIME. A SOUTHAMPTON SOCCER CLUB HAS ALREADY CANCELLED TWO MATCHES THAT WERE TO HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN IRELAND AT THE END OF JULY - A NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO TRAVEL.

4. THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE SECURITY SITUATION AND SECURITY MEASURES IN BORDER AREAS ARE REPORTEDLY BEING INTENSIFIED. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, REPORTS, HOTELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DUBLIN01309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-1099
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760789/aaaadadu.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRISH HOTELS BOMBED
TAGS: PINS, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006